

**RACHEL A. MAZE**

CC 96-45

7016 East 77th Place

April 17, 1997

Tulsa, OK 74133-7848

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR 24 1997

Dear Chairman Hundt,

Let me begin by applauding your efforts to network every classroom and library in the United States to the information superhighway by the year 2000. Obviously you share my vision that telecommunications is playing and will continue to play a vital role in the education of our youth in the next century and beyond.

Please know that your dream is already becoming a reality right here in Tulsa. Last year, for example, I chaired a citizens' committee which developed a Bond Issue to create funds for, among other things, telecommunications technologies for all classrooms in Tulsa Public Schools (Oklahoma's largest school district). Specifically, \$25 million of the total \$94.5 million bond issue was earmarked for technology, including computers and the wiring of schools. As the attached article notes, the issue passed overwhelmingly in Tulsa.

As you well know, however, the purchase of computers and wiring of schools is just the start of being connected to the Internet and education-based technology services. Access also requires local and long-distance telephone service to become a reality. More importantly, it requires *affordable* service or access can remain an obstacle for our students.

Today, you and your fellow Commissioners are reviewing an application from Southwestern Bell to provide long-distance services to Oklahomans – an application that I believe, if approved, will lower long-distance rates for consumers, including those in the education sector. How? Through the increased competition Southwestern Bell's entry will create in the market.

As you review this issue, please consider the great advantage educators will receive should Southwestern Bell's application be approved. By granting approval, you'll be one step closer to realizing your dream of bringing advanced telecommunications to our students.

Sincerely,

*Rachel A. Maze*

CC: Commissioner James Quello  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Rachele Chong

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# News Media

## REPORT

PUBLICATION/STATION Tulsa World  
LOCATION Tulsa, Ok  
PAGE(S) A1+3 DATE/TIME 100996  
COMMENTS Page 1 of 3

# Voters OK Tulsa School Bonds

By Ginnie Netherton  
World Staff Writer

A large voter turnout lifted four school bond issues totaling \$94.5 million to victory Tuesday.

Superintendent John Thompson said, "This third time is the charm."

Voters had rejected two similar school bond issues in the last two years. The bonds needed 60 percent of the vote to be approved.

Unofficial results show:

■ A \$54.5 million proposal for building renovation passed, 40,070 to 18,699 — 68 percent approval.

■ A \$10 million proposal for libraries passed, 39,502 to 19,119 — 67 percent approval.

■ A \$25 million proposal for classroom materials and equipment passed, 38,902 to 19,552 — 66 percent approval.

■ A \$5 million proposal for buses passed, 37,314 to 21,130 — 64 percent approval.

The turnout was unofficially put at about 58,700 voters.

Bond issue supporters were all smiles and cheers in the lobby of the Embassy Suites Hotel, 3332 S. 69th East Ave., as the election results were announced and tallied on a large blackboard.

The "Vote Yes" party had more than 200 guests, including parents, teachers, principals, students, city councilors, school board members, custodians and bus drivers.

Thompson told the crowd: "We are ready to work. We won't start tomorrow: we will start tonight. As your superintendent, I pledge to you to give you our best. Two times I've been here before. This third time is the charm. We're entering a new era in Tulsa Public Schools, and as we begin this

## ■ Tuesday's Results

### ■ Tulsa Schools

165 of 165 precincts reporting

<b>BOND NO. 1</b>		
\$54.5 million for buildings		
	Yes	No
Passed.....	40,070	18,699
<b>BOND NO. 2</b>		
\$10 million for library additions and materials		
Passed.....	39,502	19,119
<b>BOND NO. 3</b>		
\$25 million for classroom equipment and materials		
Passed.....	38,902	19,552
<b>BOND NO. 4</b>		
\$5 million for buses		
Passed.....	37,314	21,130

■ Area elections, A-12

new renaissance, we are grateful for the effort of the community."

Mayor Susan Savage led the cheers as she watched the returns tallied throughout the evening.

"I want you to really understand what you've done," she told the supporters. "The elected officials here tonight can tell you that 60 percent is pretty elusive. We have stood up in an overwhelming way in not just a majority, but a supermajority, and said, 'Yes, we care about the future of our city, and we care about our children.'"

Sheree Jordan, a leader of the opposition to the bond issue, said: "Our signs have been stolen and defaced. We have continually See Yes on A-3

# News Media REPORT

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PUBLICATION/STATION Tulsa World  
 LOCATION Tulsa, OK  
 PAGES 41+3 DATE/TIME 100996  
 COMMENTS Page 2 of 3

## ...Yes

Continued from A-1

been portrayed as being against children. We are for children and want tax money in the classrooms for quality education, not wasted by district management."

She said she believed voters felt pressed to approve the bond issues.

"They weren't given permission to vote no," she said.

At the watch party, community dignitaries including city councilors and school board members shared the stage with Thompson and Savage. Thompson asked all Tulsa Public Schools students present to stand in front of the stage.

School board President Clyde Moore said, "This issue is an investment in our children. Children will look back at this day, Oct. 8, 1996, and say we made a difference in the world."

Assistant Superintendent Jim Spear said the money from the sale of the bonds should be avail-

able in March. He said school principals would meet this week with architects and computer technology experts to make final plans for each school.

Rachel Maze, who led the citizens committee that identified the projects to be funded, was nearly in tears as she hugged people at the watch party.

"I am so happy and not surprised," she said. "Tulsa came through for our kids. Thank goodness!"

Last fall's defeated school bond issue drew about 35,000 voters. A 1994 school bond proposal, on the same ballot as a city bond issue, drew about 46,000 voters.

Supporters of Tuesday's bond issue included city, county and state officials, the Metropolitan Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, and organizations such as Leadership Tulsa and the Greater Tulsa Association of Realtors.

Priscilla Harris, the office manager of Citizens for Tulsa, the umbrella group for the campaign,

said the key was informing the public and getting people to vote.

The campaign raised about \$160,000 privately, which helped pay for signs, buttons, direct mail and advertising. Television advertising cost \$140,000.

Public funds cannot be used to promote a school bond issue.

Maze said the total was at least twice as much as was raised to promote the 1995 proposal.

Harris said speakers made more than 110 presentations about the bond issue to community organizations since August.

During the day Tuesday, parents and students stood at about 40 major intersections, waving signs in support of the bond issue.

Harris said one parent held a sign despite having a sprained ankle. She said many made their own signs and fliers to hand out.

The single biggest project to be funded with money from the bond issue is a new \$8 million Kendall-Whittier Elementary School, to be built near Fourth Street and

Columbia Avenue.

All 77 schools in the district will receive repairs and renovations, including \$5.6 million to update wiring.

Also planned are \$2.4 million in textbooks and \$9.6 million in computers and related technology.

Some schools would receive permanent classrooms, replacing the need to teach students in trailers and prefabricated structures.

Another highlight is completion of an eastside football stadium. Its second phase, totaling \$1.3 million, will be completed with money from the bond issue. It will be the home stadium for Hale and East Central high schools.

Sixteen schools that lack libraries will get them, for \$2.5 million. The bond issue also includes \$1.5 million for library books.

The district will buy about 150 buses to replace those whose mileages average 140,000 to 150,000.

darien public schools • administrative offices

p.o. box 1167 • darien, connecticut 06820-1167 • tel. 203-656-7400 • fax 203-656-3052

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April 18, 1997

APR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner/Chairman Hundt:

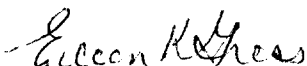
I am superintendent of the Darien Public Schools in Connecticut, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board decision will ensure that our district will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet, thus providing enhanced learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of the nation's schools, enabling services to be extended directly to the classroom where students learn. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The inclusion of discounts for Internet services is vital. Our district is in the process of integrating specific telecommunications programs into our curriculum, including the federally-funded Globe Project in Grade 5 and the Jason Project in Grade 7. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Eileen K. Gress  
Superintendent of Schools

EKG:nv

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**Tracie T. McIntyre**  
**19 Hanging Moss Road**  
**Savannah, Georgia 31410**

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APR 24 1997

April 16, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communication Commission  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room# 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

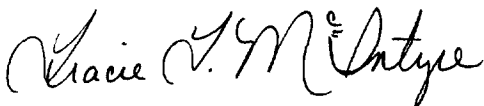
I am a parent from *Blessed Sacrament* school diocese and would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly into the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to this process. This plan is also essential in preparing our students for Workforce 2000.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's Discount plan for universal services to schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tracie T. McIntyre  
Parent

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GOOD COUNSEL



HIGH SCHOOL

3900 PETERSON AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659  
(312) 478-3655 FAX (312) 478-6029

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APR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20541

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW. Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20054

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt (State Public Utility Commissioner/ Members of Congress):

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November. In particular, I support the recommendations made by EdLiNC, a Washington-based coalition of educational and library organizations.

The Recommended Rules ensure that all children, whether in public or non-public schools, would have access to on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in our modern society.

Presently we have wired the school and are connecting the hubs. The progress is slow because of the expense so we do need assistance to prepare our students for the future.

Sincerely,

*Sister Beatrice Krippel*

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# South Fayette Township School District



2250 OLD OAKDALE ROAD  
McDONALD, PENNSYLVANIA 15057  
(412) 221-4542  
FAX (412) 693-2883

DR. LINDA B. HIPPERT  
Superintendent

April 21, 1997

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APR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Education

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demands and that our workforce will need in order to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

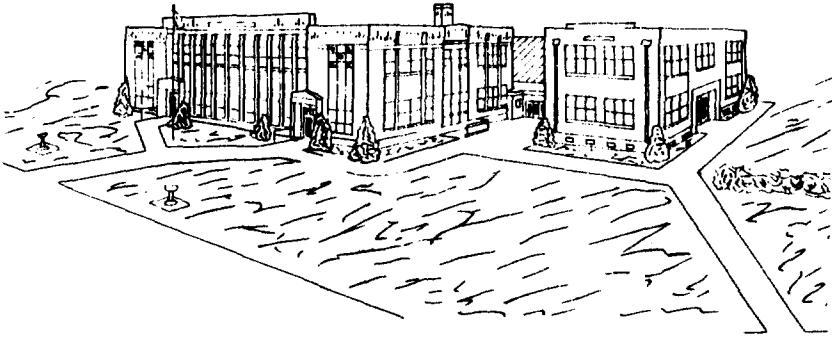
I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,

Linda B. Hippert, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools

pc: Board of School Directors

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## CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 218  
408 Dayton Street  
CEDAR RAPIDS, NEBRASKA 68627-0218

Elementary School	308-358-0732
Jr.-Sr. High School	308-358-0640
FAX Number	308-358-0211

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Marshall Tonnies, Superintendent

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

APR 24 1997

Scott Robinson, Principal

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Enforcement

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a superintendent from the Cedar Rapids Public School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Cedar Rapids Public School District is part of the Tri-Valley Distance Learning Consortium which is applying for a lottery grant for distance learning. We need the subsidy in order to be able to afford distance learning.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marshall Tonnies  
Superintendent

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